

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, SOCI, PORC, PROP, XR

SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - MARCH 22-28

1. PRESIDENT'S TRIP: ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN LEFT WASHINGTON TUESDAY TO ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT CARTER ON HIS VISITS TO VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL. IN BOTH COUNTRIES WE PLAN TO EMPHASIZE THE CO-RESPONSIBILITY OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS IN RESOLVING GLOBAL PROBLEMS TO THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF ALL. WE PLANNED FOR THE CARACAS STOP TO REINFORCE ALREADY PRODUCTIVE US-VENEZUELAN COOPERATION ON A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES, INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS, NON-PROLIFERATION, CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT, PEACEKEEPING AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT. AT THE SAME TIME WE HOPE TO BUILD ON THE FOUNDATION LAID IN RECENT MONTHS TO DEVELOP CLOSER COOPERATION IN ENERGY MATTERS AND TO NARROW DIFFERENCES ON SUCH ISSUES AS OIL PRICES, COMMON FUND/COMMODITY PRICES
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AND LAW OF THE SEA.

2. IN BRAZIL WE ANTICIPATED THAT THE VISIT LIKELY WOULD BE A DIFFICULT ONE GIVEN OUR DIFFERENCES OVER HUMAN RIGHTS, BRAZILIAN/WEST GERMAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION AND BRAZILIAN POSITIONS ON SOME ECONOMIC ISSUES. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WANTED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE SUPPORT BRAZIL'S GROWING

WORLD ROLE, THAT DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES WE HAVE MANY AREAS

IN COMMON AND TO LAY THE BASIS FOR IMPROVED COOPERATION
WITH GEISEL'S SUCCESSOR.

3. EARLY REPORTS INDICATE THE TRIP IS GOING VERY WELL AND
THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED AND HAS HAD VERY
USEFUL TALKS.

4. USOAS-CARTER RECEIVES ORFILA: PRESIDENT CARTER HAD A
45-MINUTE MEETING WITH OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ALEJANDRO
ORFILA AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON MARCH 22. AMBASSADOR GALE
MCGEE ACCOMPANIED ORFILA TO THE MEETING WHERE THE PRESI-
DENT'S FORTHCOMING TRIP, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE PANAMA
CANAL TREATIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS WERE THE PRINCIPAL TOPICS
OF DISCUSSION. ORFILA EMPHASIZED HIS PERSONAL CONVICTION
THAT, WHILE HUMAN RIGHTS IS A KEY ISSUE IN THE OAS, AND
MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE THROUGH THE INTER-AMERICAN
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, OTHER SUBJECTS ARE OF EQUAL
IMPORTANCE -- PEACEKEEPING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN
PARTICULAR. DEVELOPMENT WILL AGAIN BE THE CENTRAL ISSUE
IN THE OAS, ORFILA PREDICTED, ONCE THE PANAMA CANAL
TREATIES HAVE BEEN RATIFIED. ORFILA SUGGESTED ADDING A
CLAUSE TO THE SECOND TREATY COUNTERBALANCING THE DECONCINI
RESERVATION AND REAFFIRMING US COMMITMENT TO THE NON-INTER-
VENTION PRINCIPLES OF THE OAS CHARTER.
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5. HE SALUTED PRESIDENT CARTER FOR STIRRING THE IMAGINA-
TION OF THE HEMISPHERE AS ONLY TWO PRESIDENTS, FRANKLIN
D. ROOSEVELT AND JOHN F. KENNEDY, HAD DONE IN THIS CENTURY.
THE PRESIDENT WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ORFILA'S
VIEWS ON THE ISSUES THAT WOULD BE OF PRIMARY CONCERN IN THE
DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENTS PEREZ AND GEISEL NEXT WEEK.
GSP WOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT TOPIC FOR VENEZUELA, ORFILA
ANTICIPATED, AND NUCLEAR ENERGY WITH BRAZIL. HE RECOMMEND-
ED THAT THE PRESIDENT CONSIDER PROPOSING ABROAD-SCALE
INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM ON ENERGY IN HIS DISCISIONS WITH
THE TWO LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS.

6. WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ON US LATIN AMERICAN POLICY: THE
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL SPONSORED A CONFERENCE ON
US POLICY TOWARD LATIN AMERICA AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITU-
TION, MARCH 27-31. MANY DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS FROM LATIN
AMERICA PARTICIPATED ALONG WITH LEADING US LATIN AMERICA-
NISTS. ALTHOUGH CRITICISM OF US POLICY REMAINS STRONG, IT
IS LESS EMOTIONAL AND IN CLOSER CONTACT WITH REALITY THAN
WAS TRUE FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO.

7. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING: THE BUREAU IS PREPARING A
COUNTRY BRIEFING FOR THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERI-

CAN AFFAIRS, TO BE GIVEN ON APRIL 5. THE BRIEFING FOLLOWS
A SIMILAR EXERCISE BY DIA A FEW WEEKS AGO, WHICH FOCUSED
ON THE SECURITY IMPLICATION OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA.
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